(b) if so, the details thereof including financing pattern and State-wise allocations made, funds released and utilised by each State during 1999-2000 with physical achievements;

(c) the details of projects with location and estimated cost of works taken up for execution under the scheme in Maharashtra last year and progress of works; and

(d) the details of proposals received from Maharashtra for the current year and tentative allocation of funds for rural roads in Maharashtra in general and Vidarbha region in particular?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (d) Government are presently engaged in the process of drawing up a National Rural Roads Programme (NRRP) for which requisite Master Plans/Projects are also to be formulated. An allocation of Rs. 125.79 crore is tentatively being earmarked for the State of Maharashtra for the year 2000-2001 for this Programme.

Reduction in allocation of RD schemes in Tripura

5604. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what was the CSS allocation of the RD scheme for the State of Tripura during the year 1998-99;

(b) whether it is a fact that after restructuring of the schemes in the current financial year, the total allocation under RD scheme has been reduced drastically;

(c) if so, what is the actual position;

(d) whether it is also a fact that owing to restructuring of yardstick for sanction of allocation, the North-East States specially Tripura have been deprived; and

(e) what steps Government have taken on the proposals submitted for the State of Tripura in this respect?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) The CSS allocation of the RD schemes for the State of Tripura during the year 1998-99 was Rs. 55.19 crores.

(b) to (e) The schemes have been restructured in the last financial year. In the current financial year ten per cent of the budget of the Ministry has

been earmarked for the North-Eastern States including Tripura. The State-wise allocation has not been finalized.

Flow of the ten per cent plan funds to NE States

5605. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a policy decision was taken for ensuring flow of 10 per cent of the plan fund of all ministries for North-East region to ensure speedy development;

(b) if so, whether this decision is being implemented;

(c) what yardstick has been adopted by his ministry for sub-allocation of this 10 per cent fund among the North- East State;

(d) whether his Ministry has communicated to the Government of North-East States the yardstick adopted by it for sub-allocation of this 10 per cent fund; and

(e) out of this 10 per cent fund what proportion is sanctioned for Tripura State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) to (e) Ten per cent of the Plan funds for Rural Development Programmes of this Ministry have been earmarked in BE 2000-01 for North-East region. The State-wise allocation has not been finalised.

Backward districts in rural areas

5606. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to segregate the backward districts which could not prosper despite special provisions; and

(b) the action proposed to develop such rural areas ensuring the basic minimum standards of infrastructure for such rural poor people justifying rural development on a priority basis for such areas?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA): (a) A Committee (headed by Principal Adviser, Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, *inter alia*, identify the 100 most backward/poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyse the cause of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The